

Research Activity Panel Meeting  
Watershed Institute, Cal. State Monterey Bay  
Friday August 9, 1996  
09:00 - 12:00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Introduction of Members and Participants

- a) Members in attendance:
- b) Meeting member substitutions:
- c) Guest attendees:

Members in attendance:

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs- Chair  
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS- RAP Coordinator  
Jane Caffrey, ESNERR and Foundation  
Steve Eittreim, USGS  
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs  
Korie Johnson for Rick Starr, U.C. Sea Grant- Vice Chair  
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/ Monterey  
Randy Kochevar for Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Jennifer Nielsen for Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station  
Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC/CSUMB  
Don Potts, UCSC  
Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS  
Leslie Rosenfeld, Naval Postgraduate School  
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS  
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab

Guests:

Ross Clark, Watershed Institute  
Jane Delay, MBNMS  
Scott Hennessey, Watershed Institute  
Rikk Kvitek, CSUMB  
Andrea Oliver, Sea Grant  
John Oliver, MLML  
Holly Price, MBNMS

Members not able to attend:

George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG  
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior  
Bruce Robison, MBARI  
Jim Rote, CSUMB  
Geoff Wheat, NOAA/NURP  
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission  
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation

CONSENT ITEMS:

Approval of July 1996 minutes (G. Cailliet)  
Minutes were approved as presented.

Brief update on the Mussel Watch Program (M. Stephenson)

- Bruce McPherson introduced the bill to fund the program.

- The Republican dominated assembly approve the bill, now it is in the Senate suspense file.
- RAP members were encouraged to write letters to Henry Mello, representing their individual institutions, requesting that he support the bill.
- Greg Cailliet made a motion that he and Andrew De Vogelaere write a letter to Senator Mello reiterating how important this program is to the Sanctuary and to public health. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Effects of artificial lights on the deep sea organisms (R. Kochevar)

- Most of the available literature has been reviewed.
- Topics in the literature include physiology of visual systems and behavioral effects but there is probably not enough information available to make sound resource management decisions.
- Randy proposed a strategy of data collection on the subject for all ongoing ROV studies. A written report for the RAP to review should be available next month.

#### PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

##### Introduction to Cal. State University Monterey Bay (G. Sharp)

- The campus is embarking on its second academic year.
- Using technology to solve applied problems is a large part of the CSUMB vision.
- Faculty hiring continues, and the applicants are of high quality.
- Good relationships have been forged with Moss Landing Marine Labs and the Watershed institute.
- It will take a few more years before the campus is fully operational campus; however, there is an optimistic future.

##### On overview of programs at the CSUMB Watershed Institute (S. Hennessey)

- A major goal of the Watershed Institute is to restore native plants to regional grasslands, riparian areas and wetlands. They are testing restoration methods while implementing restoration at numerous sites, including PG&E power plant, Ft. Ord, Natividad Creek, and several privately owned parcels.
- The Watershed Institute works with CSUMB faculty and students to achieve the campus vision of service for and outreach to the regional community. However, the Institute is responsible for funding its staff and programs. Currently the Institute has grants from the EPA, DOD, Cal Trans, and others.

##### An update on the Water Quality Protection Program (H. Price)

- This is an annual update to the RAP. The overall goal of the WQPP is to enhance and protect water quality in the Sanctuary and adjacent watersheds.
- The WQPP operates as a partnership of 27 federal, state and non-profit agencies.
- Over 150 water quality management programs and projects exist, there is a need to coordinate these to eliminate overlap and pool resources to effectively achieve a common goal.
- Plans documenting water quality problems and strategies to solve them have been developed for urban runoff and marine harbors. Plans are being developed for agriculture.
- The WQPP has completed their first newsletter.

- Holly Price presented a list of requests to RAP: to promote the WQPP, to refer relevant information and funding opportunities to the WQPP, to increase involvement with the CA Biodiversity Council, to assist in the annual assessment of the Sanctuary and its watersheds, to assist in developing a data sharing process, to collaborate in grant proposals, to advise on volunteer monitoring programs relative to protocol development and data analysis, to improve links between all of the regional monitoring groups.

#### Field tests of wetland filtering capabilities (R. Clark)

- The Watershed Institute at CSUMB is interested in water monitoring to test the water quality improvement aspects of wetlands.
- Tests at restoration sites and other sites with known land use history indicate that wetlands work as effective filters for human trash, sediment and nitrogen. Further work is being planned to study pesticides.
- An open discussion suggested ways to dovetail the WQPP and this Watershed Institute project: using CSUMB students, through service learning, to do volunteer monitoring work; combining water quality data sets; having the Watershed institute sample to test the effectiveness of implementation projects of the WQPP; and having the WQPP network to present the Watershed Institute results to a broad audience.

#### The CSUMB Salinas Valley Project (R. Kvitek)

- Part of the CSUMB vision is to provide service to the community, as an independent group without a programmatic agenda.
- CSUMB will bring together spatial data from the region to coordinate existing efforts and make the data available to policy makers and the public.
- The Salinas Valley Project will be a model to visually project the valley into the future with outcomes varying based on different planning alternatives. This type of model has already been developed by NASA and the University of Maryland. This will be a tool, not a solution, to educate the public and policy makers.
- The plan is to implement the project, and collaborate with others, through a series of workshops that involve Salinas Valley stock holders. One issue of great concerns is seawater intrusion.

BREAK

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Progress on the Sanctuary Currents '97 (J. Caffrey, D. Potts, A. DeVogelaere, R. Starr)

- Planning continues for Sanctuary Currents 1997. It will be held at the Coconut Grove in Santa Cruz. It will be a one day format including: Morning- general symposium and concurrent sessions; Afternoon- posters, Ricketts lecture, awards; with completeion by late afternoon.
- Jane Caffrey is organizing the afternoon session on habitats and biodiversity in the marine realm.
- There was a discussion on who should receive the Ricketts and Science awards. It was decided to have a vote by e-mail after more information was provided on the purpose of each award.

Changing letter of support format for watershed projects (A. DeVogelaere)

- A discussion was held on the importance of water quality and watershed proposals, and the need to integrate these studies.
- RAP members agreed to transfer the responsibility of writing letters of support for water quality and watershed proposals to the WQPP and the Sanctuary Manager.

#### SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS

Verbal items:

Status of the proposed Underwater Park (A. DeVogelaere, G. Cailliet)

- There have been numerous hearings on this proposal before the Pacific Grove and Monterey Recreational Commissions. More recently in July, the Commissions voted to prohibit commercial fishing with a provision to allow drifting purse seines without penalty (must set outside boundaries). The Commissioners also voted to ban spear fishing and recreational hook and line (NOTE: Monterey voted to ban it all; Pacific Grove voted to allow it off shoreline) Kelp harvesting was not voted upon. Other issues addressed by the Commission included: 1) scientific collection -- Monterey voted to allow it with permits; Pacific Grove voted against allowing any kind of scientific collection; 2) voted to name it the Doc Ricketts Marine Reserve; 3) enforcement would be the jurisdiction of the city police. The next hearing will be Sept. 19, at 7:00 PM; the main focus will be on kelp harvesting. The Parks and Recreation Commissions' recommendations are only advisory. The issue will be finalized by the City Councils.
- Rachel Saunders of CMC is working on a more detailed written proposal than previously presented to the RAP by Ed Cooper. She will ask for the RAP to provide input to this proposal.
- Elements necessary in the park proposal include careful consideration of impacts on the research community and a need for monitoring the impacts of ecotourism.
- The Monterey Bay Aquarium expressed strongly that if research and education are restricted in the proposed park, the Aquarium will oppose it.
- The RAP agreed their role should be to insist on documented facts and a thorough investigation of the marine reserves concept.

Multiple use: scientific moorings vs. fishing off of Pt. Sur (A. DeVogelaere)

- Because of the recent loss of an NPS mooring, the RAP asked Greg Cailliet to present this issue to the SAC for discussion. Perhaps Dave Danbom (SAC Fishing Representative) might have suggestions on how to facilitate multiple use of the ocean relative to fishing and scientific moorings.

IMBI in Panama and Costa Rica (D. Potts)

- Don Potts gave a summary of successful trips to promote the IMBI in Panama and Costa Rica.
- IMBI is waiting for a response from the Packard Foundation to fund a planning workshop for the initiative.
- On a related note, Greg Cailliet will coordinate a RAP recommendation to the CA Biodiversity council on biogeographic regions offshore of the state.

Written items (no discussion unless there are questions):

NMS Research Reports (A. DeVogelaere/J. Roletto)

Electronic Communications Update (A. King)

To contact all of the RAP members at once, MBNMS has set up a ListServe address at [mbnms\\_rap@lobos.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov](mailto:mbnms_rap@lobos.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov)

Evaluating logistics of the 1996 McArthur cruise (A. King)

An evaluation e-mail form has been sent out to cruise participants.

Fort Ord offshore studies (S. Eittreim)

Funding has at long last been transferred from Army to USGS, MLML and UCSC for support of the offshore Ft Ord Former Restricted Zone (FORZ) studies. Plans are to follow up previous side-scan imagery with more detailed surveys (slower speed, higher frequency) to collect data over targets that warranted further looks. Schedules have not yet been worked out, but we are planning to do the work in September or October. Toxicological analysis of the sediment cores from FORZ will begin work shortly in Ron Tjeerdma's lab at UCSC.

Permit Report (S. Kathey)

- See handout.

New Business

- Two positions are opening up at the MBNMS, the Manager and a Physical Scientist. The RAP decided that Greg Cailliet should approach SRD and the SAC to find a mechanism for the RAP to be involved in the selection process.

Old Business (optional updates):

Elephant Seal population growth at Pt. Piedras Blancas (A. King/J. Harvey)

- The general public in Cambria is interested in putting together a volunteer interpretive program. CMC will probably develop a BAY NET branch in the area.

Site Characterization and RAP suggestions for improvements (A. DeVogelaere)

- RAP members were encouraged to keep making suggestions for the next annual update.

Steve Eittreim announced two postdoctoral positions at the USGS for the 1997 fiscal year.

OSPR GIS maps from the August oil spill drill were on display.

Items for future meetings

- A presentation by California Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSRP) was suggested.

ADJOURN at 12:15

Compiled by:

Andrew DeVogelaere      and  
Research Coordinator

Jane Delay  
Advisory Council Coordinator